

# **Tinkham Alternative High School**

## **Brief Program Description**

The Tinkham Alternative High School is a substance abuse prevention alternative high school program that serves at-risk students referred by local high schools. The Tinkham method employs broad-based and multifaceted social learning strategies. The heart of the program, service learning, is designed to provide students with opportunities to "give back" to the community by caring for others. Along with this experiential component, counseling, coaching, mentoring, tutoring, and referral is provided to offer comprehensive student assistance in their service endeavors. In addition, students with substance abuse problems are referred for ancillary services, and family counseling is made available through the school's family resource center. In research testing the Tinkham method, Tinkham students were compared with an at-risk matched sample of traditional high school students. Results revealed that Tinkham students showed significant improvements in their grade point averages from pretest to posttest, significantly higher grades in English and Math at posttest, and a consistent number of suspensions over the evaluation period as compared to an increasing number for traditional school subjects. Additionally, evaluation findings revealed that Tinkham students with higher levels of participation in service learning activities evidenced significantly higher grade point averages and fewer suspensions than Tinkham students with lower levels of participation in these activities.

## **Contact Information**

For indepth information on this program, please use the contact listed below.

### **Program Developer**

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